

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-19 NEA-14 EB-11 DRC-01 /202 W

----- 127212

R 241045Z JUL 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2117

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EIND SO UR

SUBJ: SOMALI-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. I ASKED FONSEC OMAR ARTEH ON JULY 23 ABOUT SOMALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR AND WHETHER THE SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY (MOGADISCIO 1112) MEANT A CHANGE IN SOMALI POLICY. ARTEH SAID THAT THE TREATY WAS IN SPIRIT OF DETENTE WHICH US HAD DONE SO MUCH TO CREATE. IT WAS "NORMAL" FRIENDSHIP TREATY AND PERHAPS WOULD BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY. IT DID NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT OR FORESHADOW ANY CHANGE IN SOMALIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY OR ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ARAB LEAGUE, OAU AND COMMON MARKET. IT WAS NOT RPT NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY THIRD PARTIES.

2. I THEN ASKED OMAR ARTEH ABOUT ANY ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH SOVIETS, MENTIONING THAT DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS TALKING ABOUT RATHER EXTENSIVE FORGIVENESS OF GSDR DEBTS. OMAR ARTEH SAID SOME ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED AND SOME WERE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. HE CLAIMED HE DID NOT RPT NOT RECALL SPECIFIC FIGURES AND SAID THAT IN SOME CASES THESE

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HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. HE OBSERVED THAT GSDR DID NOT RPT

NOT WISH TO LINK SUCH ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH TREATY. THESE WERE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR SOME TIME. PRESIDENT PDGORNYY'S VISIT SIMPLY PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR THEIR SIGNATURE.

3. COMMENT: REPORTS CIRCULATING IN THE MOGADISCIO DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY CLAIM THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE FORGIVEN ONE HUNDRED MILLION RUBLES IN GSDR OBLIGATIONS TO MOSCOW FOR PREVIOUS ARMAMENTS AND HAVE RESCHEDULED ADDITIONAL 75 MILLION RUBLES DEBT, WITH PAYMENT TO BEGIN IN 1985. THE ONE HUNDRED MILLION RUBLE FIGURE IS SOMEWHAT MORE THAN OUR OWN MOST RECENT ARMS ASSISTANCE ESTIMATE OF SEVENTY MILLION DOLLARS (INR RSGS-4, DATED JUNE 18, 1974) BUT THIS MAY NOT INCLUDE RECENT SHIPMENTS. ADDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CREDITS DRAWN ADDS ONLY ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. WHATEVER THE TRUTH OF THESE FORGIVENESS FIGURES, INTERESTING THAT THEY ARE BEING GIVEN SOME CREDENCE HERE. GSDR OFFICIALS MAY BE SEEKING TO JUSTIFY OR "SELL" THE SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY TO SOMALI AND FOREIGN SCEPTICS--BOTH AFRICAN AND ARAB--WHO ARE WONDERING ABOUT THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO SOMALIA OF TREATY. (PRESIDENT SIAD HIMSELF REPORTEDLY USED THE ONE HUNDRED MILLION RUBLE FIGURE IN ADDRESSING A GROUP OF GSDR OFFICIALS AT AN INDOCTRINATION SESSION RECENTLY.)

5. GSDR SENSITIVITY ON TREATY ALSO SHOWN IN UNUSUAL JULY 23 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PRESS RELEASE REFUTING "RECENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS" BY IMPERIALIST MEDIA AGAINST SOMALI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP (SEPTEL).

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